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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

**PAT SCHNIEDER**

Cell: (602) 809-2673

# **JOINT EFFORTS NET ARRESTS AND DRUGS IN LAKE HAVASU CITY**

**Phoenix**—The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Lake Havasu City Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Colorado River and Indian Tribal Police, Parker Police Department, La Paz County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, Bullhead City Police Department and Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement (MAGNET) announced the arrest of three members of a methamphetamine distribution organization based in Mohave and La Paz Counties, after a federal grand jury in Phoenix returned an indictment against Jose Angeles Hernandez, DOB 11/21/76; Gabriela Lopez Luque, DOB 8/02/76, of Bullhead City, Ariz.; and Norma Sylvia Locklear, DOB 4/26/36, of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

The indictment alleges that those arrested participated in variety of drug related offenses, including the sale and distribution of methamphetamine. Daniel Lopez, was also indicted on Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Possession with Intent

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to Distribute Methamphetamine. Seven additional subjects were arrested on state charges stemming from drug trafficking offenses.

The three defendants who were arrested, Hernandez, Luque and Locklear, were indicted for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. Hernandez and Locklear, have also been indicted on Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. This investigation was a long-term DEA investigation of subjects in Lake Havasu City, Arizona and its environs who are alleged to have been involved in drug trafficking offenses.

On or about July 22, 2004, DEA Special Agents from the Lake Havasu Post of Duty and Lake Havasu City Police Department, together with law enforcement officers from various state and local agencies, executed three federal search warrants and three state search warrants under this DEA and Lake Havasu Police Department investigation. Narcotics, money and weapons were discovered during the execution the search warrants.

This operation was a collaborative effort among state, local and federal agencies designed to exert a force against drug traffickers in local communities in Arizona and also to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking cells of larger organizations. DEA Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. Landrum said, "Methamphetamine is a devastating, addictive drug that destroys human dignity and disrupts the peace and security of our communities. The arrest of these subjects and the inhibition of their profits will effectively reduce a significant amount of this deadly product from coming into our neighborhoods." U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona Paul Charlton said, "I applaud the efforts of all these law enforcement agencies. These arrests show how combining resources can be extremely effective."

A conviction for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing detectable amount of of Methamphetamine carries a maximum

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penalty of life, a \$4,000,000 fine, or both. A conviction for Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of Methamphetamine carries a maximum penalty of 40 years, a \$2,000,000 fine, or both. A conviction for Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 grams or more of Methamphetamine carries a penalty of life, a \$4,000,000 fine, or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Lake Havasu City Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Colorado River and Indian Tribal Police, Parker Police Department, La Paz County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, Bullhead City Police Department and the Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement (MAGNET).

The federal prosecution is being handled by Mark Wayne Reeves and John Boyle, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona.

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